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SUBJECT: PANAMA SEEKS BALANCE ON NAM LEBANON RESOLUTION

REF: STATE 176793

11. (SBU) Panama will seek a balanced approach on Israel/Lebanon issues but cannot guarantee it will vote against the NAM resolution on Lebanese children's human rights, MFA Sub-Director for Exterior Politics Vladimir Franco told Poloff October 24. Franco said Panama could not decide its vote without reading the text of the proposed NAM resolution.

12. (SBU) Franco emphasized that Panama does not necessarily support all NAM actions and reiterated Panama's role as a balancing voice within the organization. However, Franco said it was difficult for Panama to seek any kind of balance unless Israel complies with its obligations from previous UN resolutions. If Israel does not fulfill its obligations, there can be no balance, added Franco. He agreed to pass the U.S. non-paper to the MFA Director of Organization Affairs.

ARREAGA